

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

CIEP-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0300

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08303

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GR, EEC

SUBJECT: FRG ATTITUDE CONCERNING GREEK RELATIONS WITH EC

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 4475; B) LUXEMBOURG 352;

C) ATHENS 3691; D) BONN 8147

1. IT IS TRUE THAT THE GERMANS TRY TO PROVIDE A KIND OF
GENERALIZED ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE GREEKS IN DISCUSSIONS

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OF GREEK TIES WITH THE EC AND WITH WESTERN EUROPE. IT IS

HARD TO TELL, FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, HOW BADLY THE GREEKS MAY HAVE BEEN MISLED BY THIS ENCOURAGEMENT INTO BELIEVING THAT THEY COULD ACHIEVE EC MEMBERSHIP RAPIDLY. IN ANY EVENT, MISS NIELSEN OF THE EC COMMISSION (REFTEL A) IS CERTAINLY CORRECT IN SAYING THAT THE GERMANS HAVE MAJOR RESERVATIONS. BROADLY SPEAKING, THEIR FEELING IS THAT THE EXISTING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES ALREADY MEMBERS OF THE EC ARE GREAT ENOUGH TO PROVIDE THE EC WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS IT CAN HANDLE IN THE NEAR AND MEDIUM-TERM FUTURE. THE PROSPECT OF EVENTUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR GREECE IS A LONG-TERM MATTER WHICH WILL NEED TO BE APPROACHED GRADUALLY AND, AS INDICATED IN REFTEL D, CAN IN THE GERMAN VIEW PROBABLY BE APPROACHED MOST EFFECTIVELY THROUGH CONCENTRATING ON THE AGREEMENTS OF ASSOCIATION.

2. TURKEY IS ALSO A MAJOR PROBLEM, AS MISS NIELSEN SUGGESTED, IN THE SENSE THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO PURSUE A "BALANCED" POLICY TOWARD GREECE AND TURKEY. THIS WOULD PRECLUDE MOVING SIGNIFICANTLY MORE RAPIDLY ON EC MEMBERSHIP FOR THE ONE THAN FOR THE OTHER. ONE IMMEDIATE AND OBVIOUS SOURCE OF CONCERN TO THE GERMANS IS THE LABOR SITUATION WHICH COULD ARISE AS A RESULT OF FULL EC MEMBERSHIP FOR GREECE AND TURKEY. THE PROBLEM WOULD BE PARTICULARLY ACUTE IN THE CASE OF THE LATTER, AND GERMAN OFFICIALS HAVE STATED BLUNTLY TO US THAT A METHOD WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND TO CONTROL AND INDEED PREVENT THE FREE MOVEMENT OF LABOR IN THE EVENT OF TURKISH EC MEMBERSHIP.

3. IN SUM, THE GERMANS ARE CAUGHT BETWEEN CONFLICTING INTERESTS. THEY ARE GENUINELY CONCERNED OVER THE SECURITY OF NATO'S SOUTHEASTERN FLANK AND WANT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO NURTURE STABLE DEMOCRATIC CONDITIONS THERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE COHESION OF THE EC IF THEY MOVE TOO FAST. CONDITIONS IN THE EC BEING WHAT THEY ARE, THE ADDITION OF TWO MORE RELATIVELY POOR COUNTRIES WOULD OBVIOUSLY INCREASE THE BURDEN FOR THE GERMAN TAXPAYER, BUT THIS IS ONLY ONE ASPECT--ALBEIT AN IMPORTANT ONE--

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OF A LARGER PROBLEM.
HILLENBRAND

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